

ANIMAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

June, 1996

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is conducting an inventory of the elements of biological diversity in Montana. The inventory focuses on plant species, animal species, plant communities, and biological features that are rare, endemic, disjunct, threatened, or endangered throughout their range or in Montana, vulnerable to extirpation from Montana, or in need of further research.

The attached list of animal species of special concern in Montana is used to direct data acquisition by MTNHP, and provide information to others on the current status of these species. It has been developed largely from information supplied by field research and inventories, and input from knowledgeable individuals. Background information was obtained from sources such as Vertebrate Species of Special Interest or Concern (Flath 1984, 1996), P. D. Skaar's Montana Bird Distribution (Montana Bird Distribution Committee 1996), Fishes of Montana (Brown 1971), the Notice of Review for vertebrates, and from the scientific literature, personal contacts, museum specimens, and MTNHP staff research.

This list is dynamic and is periodically revised as new data become available to the MTNHP. Changes to the list since the most recent edition (Reichel 1995) are [highlighted](#) for quick reference. Printed revisions are produced annually, while regularly-updated versions are available from our office or via our Internet Home Page.

Written comments and suggestions are continually needed on this list, particularly regarding recommended additions or deletions. New location information for any of these taxa is also being solicited. The MTNHP can supply current location information and status data for most of these taxa.

Taxa are evaluated and ranked by the Heritage Program on the basis of their global (range-wide) status, and their state-wide status. These ranks are used to determine protection and data collection priorities, and are revised as new information becomes available.

A scale of 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure) is used for these ranks, and each species is assigned the appropriate combination of global and state ranks.

Example: common loon = G5 / S3 (i.e., species is demonstrably secure globally; in Montana is found within a restricted range).

Global and state ranks are assigned according to a standardized procedure used by all Natural Heritage Programs, and are defined below.

Global/State

Rank		Definition (G = Range-wide; S = Montana)
G1	S1	Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals), or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction.
G2	S2	Imperiled because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences), or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.
G3	S3	Either very rare and local throughout its range, or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range, or vulnerable to extinction throughout its range because of other factors; in the range of 21 to 100 occurrences.
G4	S4	Apparently secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
G5	S5	Demonstrably secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
GU	SU	Possibly in peril, but status uncertain; more information needed.
GH	SH	Historically known; may be rediscovered.
GX	SX	Believed to be extinct; historical records only, continue search.

Other codes:

A	Accidental in the state; including species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded very infrequently, hundreds or thousands of miles outside their usual range.
B	A state rank modifier indicating breeding status for a migratory species. Example: S1B,SZN -- breeding occurrences for the species are ranked S1 (critically imperiled) in the state, nonbreeding occurrences are not ranked in the state.
E	An exotic established in the state; may be native in nearby regions.
HYB	Element represents a hybrid of species.
N	A state rank modifier indicating non-breeding status for a migratory species. Example: S1B,SZN -- breeding occurrences for the species are ranked S1 (critically imperiled) in the state, nonbreeding occurrences are not ranked in the state.
P	Indicates the element may potentially occur in the state.
Q	Taxonomic questions or problems involved, more information needed; appended to the global rank.
R	Reported in the state; but lacking documentation which would provide a basis for either accepting or rejecting the report.
T	Rank for a subspecific taxon (subspecies, variety, or population); appended to the global rank for the full species.
Z	Ranking not applicable.
#	A modifier to SX or SH; the species has been reintroduced but the population is not yet breeding and established.

USFWS Status: The symbols in this column denote the categories defined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Notice of Review (1980, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1993, 1996) and indicate the status of a taxon under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. Categories are listed below:

LE listed endangered.
 LT listed threatened
 PE proposed endangered
 PT proposed threatened
 C candidate (Substantial information in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service files on biological vulnerability to support proposals to list as endangered or threatened).
 NL not listed/no designation (see note below)
 XN non-essential experimental population

Note: The categories C2, 3B and 3C are no longer maintained by the USFWS.

A species can have more than one federal designation if the species' status varies within its range. In these instances the Montana designation is listed first. Example: LELT = species is listed endangered in Montana; elsewhere in its range it may be listed threatened.

USFS Status: The status of species in Montana as defined by the U.S. Forest Service manual (2670.22). These taxa are listed as such by the Regional Forester (Northern Region) on Montana National Forests.

State Status: These codes give the state legal status of vertebrates as listed in the 1989 Statutes of Montana for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

GA = game animal	NG = nongame wildlife
GF = game fish	P = protected species
FB = fur bearing animal	U = unprotected species
MB = migratory bird	
UB = upland game bird	<u>Management Status</u>
E = endangered	CS = closed season
	RH = restricted harvest

Notes on changes from the 1995 list:

Modifications to global and state ranks are the result of changes in either our knowledge of the species or actual changes in population status.

ADDITIONS:

- The Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*) was added to the list on the basis of recent catastrophic declines in western Montana and apparent ongoing declines in much of eastern Montana.
- The Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) is added on the basis of localized distribution in Montana.
- The Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) are added on the basis of newly discovered breeding populations in northeastern Montana.
- The Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) is added on the basis of continued declines, unknown viability of many current small colonies, and its key role in the life history of several other TES species.
- Five invertebrates are added to the list on the basis of localized distributions in Montana (Frest and Johannes 1995); these include: *Hemphillia danielsi*, *Magnipelta mycophaga*, *Oreohelix alpina*, *O. amariradix*, and *Fluminicola fuscus*. For specific information on changes contact the Zoologist at the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

DELETIONS:

- The Sagebrush Lizard was removed from the Species of Special Concern (SSC) list but retained on the Watch List due to recent findings that indicate it is more common and widespread than was previously known.
- Several species listed as Category 2 Candidates (C2) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1994-95 were included on the 1995 SSC list despite their apparent wide range and secure status in Montana. The USFWS has

discontinued Category 2 and these species have been removed from our 1996 list. They included: Western Silvery Minnow (*Hybognathus argyritis*), Plains Minnow (*Hybognathus placitus*), Flathead Chub (*Hybopsis gracilis*), Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*), Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*), Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma douglasi*), Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*), Long-legged Myotis (*Myotis volans*), Western Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), and Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*).

WATCH LIST SPECIES:

These species are not currently known to meet the criteria of the Species of Special Concern; however, there are indications that they are either: 1) less common than currently thought; or 2) currently declining. While not actively soliciting information for these species, we are accumulating data as it is received for possible re-ranking of these species.

<i>Ascaphus truei</i>	Tailed Frog
<i>Bufo boreas</i>	Western Toad
<i>Bufo cognatus</i>	Great Plains Toad
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron
<i>Lagopus leucurus</i>	White-tailed Ptarmigan
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl
<i>Otus asio</i>	Eastern Screech-Owl
<i>Otus kennicottii</i>	Western Screech-Owl
<i>Surnia ulula</i>	Northern Hawk-Owl
<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	Broad-tailed Hummingbird
<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike
<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Tennessee Warbler
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black-and-white Warbler
<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	Sage Sparrow
<i>Hybognathus argyritis</i>	Western Silvery Minnow
<i>Hybognathus placitus</i>	Plains Minnow
<i>Hybopsis gracilis</i>	Flathead Chub
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma Myotis
<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Eastern Cottontail
<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Eastern Spotted Skunk
<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>	Western Spotted Skunk
<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>	Sagebrush Lizard
<i>Eumeces skiltonianus</i>	Western Skink

Selected References:

- Brown, C. J. D. 1971. Fishes of Montana. Montana State University, Bozeman. 207 pp.
- Federal Register. 1996. Plant and animal notice of review. 61 FR 7596. February 28, 1996.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants. 50 CFR 17.11 & 17.12, August 23, 1993. U. S. Govt. Printing Office: 1993-342-477/94033. 40 pp.
- Flath, D. L. 1984. Vertebrate species of special interest or concern. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Helena. 76 pp.
- Holton, G. D. 1990. A field guide to Montana fishes. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena. 103 pp.
- Montana Bird Distribution Committee. 1996. P. D. Skaar's Montana bird distribution, fifth edition. Special Publication No. 3, Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena. 129 pp.
- Reichel, J. D. and D. Flath. 1995. Identification of Montana's amphibians and reptiles. Montana Outdoors 26(3):15-34.
- Statutes, State of Montana. 1989. A compilation of statutes relating to fish, wildlife, parks, outdoor recreations, and certain other natural resources of the State of Montana. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Helena. 255 pp.
- Thompson, L. S. 1982. Distribution of Montana amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. Montana Audubon Council, Helena. 24 pp.

Contact us via e-mail at mtnhp@mt.gov, or browse our data sets at <https://mtnhp.org>

June, 1996

**Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern**

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
Fish _____					
COTTUS CONFUSUS SHORTHEAD SCULPIN	G5	S3	NG		SENSITIVE
COTTUS RHOZEUS TORRENT SCULPIN	G5	S2	NG		SENSITIVE
COTTUS RICEI SPOONHEAD SCULPIN	G5	S1	NG		
ACIPENSER TRANSMONTANUS POP 1 WHITE STURGEON (KOOTENAI RIVER POPULATION)	G4T1Q	S1T1Q	GFRH	LE	SENSITIVE
SCAPHIRHYNCHUS ALBUS PALLID STURGEON	G1G2	S1	GFRH	LE	ENDANGERED
POLYODON SPATHULA PADDLEFISH	G4	S3	GFRH		
LEPISOSTEUS PLATOSTOMUS SHORTNOSE GAR	G5	S1	NG		
ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI BOUVIERI YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T2	S2	GF		SENSITIVE
ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T3	S3	GF		SENSITIVE
ONCORHYNCHUS MYKISS GIBBSI INTERIOR REDBAND TROUT	G5T?	S2	GF		SENSITIVE
SALVELINUS CONFLUENTUS BULL TROUT	G3	S3	GFRH	C	SENSITIVE
THYMALLUS ARCTICUS MONTANUS MONTANA ARCTIC GRAYLING	G5T2	S1	GFRH	C	SENSITIVE
PHOXINUS EOS X PHOXINUS NEOGAEUS NORTHERN REDBELLY X FINESCALE DACE	HYB	S3	NG		
HYBOPSIS GELIDA STURGEON CHUB	G2	S2	NG	C	
HYBOPSIS MEEKI SICKLEFIN CHUB	G3	S1	NG	C	

June, 1996

**Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern**

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
SEMOTILUS MARGARITA PEARL DACE	G5	S2	NG		
CYCLEPTUS ELONGATUS BLUE SUCKER	G3	S3?	NG		
PERCOPSIS OMISCOMAYCUS TROUT-PERCH	G5	S1	NG		
Amphibians _____					
PLETHODON IDAHOENSIS COEUR D'ALENE SALAMANDER	G3Q	S2	NG		SENSITIVE
DICAMPTODON ATERRIMUS IDAHO GIANT SALAMANDER	G4	SR	NG		
BUFO HEMIOPHRYS CANADIAN TOAD	G4	S1	NG		
RANA PIPIENS NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG	G5	S3S4	NG		
RANA SYLVATICA WOOD FROG	G5	SR	NG		
Reptiles _____					
CHELYDRA SERPENTINA SNAPPING TURTLE	G5	S3?	NG		
TRIONYX SPINIFERUS SPINY SOFTSHELL	G5	S3	NG		
HETERODON NASICUS WESTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE	G5	S3?	NG		
LAMPROPELTIS TRIANGULUM MILK SNAKE	G5	S2	NG		
OPHEODRYS VERNALIS SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE	G5	S2S3	NG		

June, 1996

**Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern**

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
Birds _____					
GAVIA IMMER COMMON LOON	G5	S3B,SZN	P		SENSITIVE
AECHMOPHORUS CLARKII CLARK'S GREBE	G5	S2S4B,SZN	P		
PELECANUS ERYTHORHYNCHOS AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN	G3	S2B,SZN	P		
NYCTICORAX NYCTICORAX BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON	G5	S2S3B ,SZN	P		
PLEGADIS CHIHI WHITE-FACED IBIS	G5	S1B,SZN	P		
CYGNUS BUCCINATOR TRUMPETER SWAN	G4	S2B,S2N	MB		SENSITIVE
HISTRIONICUS HISTRIONICUS HARLEQUIN DUCK	G4	S2B,SZN	MB		SENSITIVE
HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS BALD EAGLE	G4	S3B,S3N	P	LTLE	ENDANGERED
ACCIPITER GENTILIS NORTHERN GOSHAWK	G4G5	S3S4	P		
BUTEO REGALIS FERRUGINOUS HAWK	G4	S3B,SZN	P		SENSITIVE
FALCO PEREGRINUS PEREGRINE FALCON	G4	S1S2B,SZN	E	E/SA	ENDANGERED
TYMPANUCHUS PHASIANELLUS COLUMBIANUS COLUMBIAN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	G4T3	S1	UB		SENSITIVE
COTURNICOPS NOVEBORACENSIS YELLOW RAIL	G4	S1B,SZN	MBCS		
GRUS AMERICANA WHOOPING CRANE	G1	SZN	E	LE	ENDANGERED

June, 1996

**Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern**

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
CHARADRIUS MELODUS PIPING PLOVER	G3	S2B,SZN	P	LTLE	THREATENED
CHARADRIUS MONTANUS MOUNTAIN PLOVER	G2	S2B,SZN	P	C	SENSITIVE
HIMANTOPUS MEXICANUS BLACK-NECKED STILT	G5	S2B,SZN	P		
LARUS PIPIXCAN FRANKLIN'S GULL	G5	S3B ,SZN	P		
STERNA CASPIA CASPIAN TERN	G5	S2B ,SZN	P		
STERNA HIRUNDO COMMON TERN	G5	S3B,SZN	P		
STERNA FORSTERI FORSTER'S TERN	G5	S2B ,SZN	P		
STERNA ANTILLARUM ATHALASSOS INTERIOR LEAST TERN	G4T2Q	S1B,SZN	P	LENL	
CHLIDONIAS NIGER BLACK TERN	G4	S3B,SZN	P		
COCCYZUS AMERICANUS YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	G5	S3B,SZN	P		
OTUS FLAMMEOLUS FLAMMULATED OWL	G4	S2S3B ,SZN	P		SENSITIVE
SPEOTYTO CUNICULARIA BURROWING OWL	G4	S3B,SZN	P		
STRIX NEBULOSA GREAT GRAY OWL	G5	S3	P		
AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS BOREAL OWL	G5	S3S4	P		SENSITIVE
CYPSELOIDES NIGER BLACK SWIFT	G4	S3B,SZN	P		

June, 1996

**Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern**

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
PICOIDES ARCTICUS BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER	G5	S3	P		SENSITIVE
EMPIDONAX ALNORUM ALDER FLYCATCHER	G5	S1B,SZN	P		
TYRANNUS VOCIFERANS CASSIN'S KINGBIRD	G5	S1S3B,SZN	P		
SPIZA AMERICANA DICKCISSEL	G5	S1S2B,SZN	P		
AMMODRAMUS BAIRDII BAIRD'S SPARROW	G3G4	S3B,SZN	P		
AMMODRAMUS LECONTEII LE CONTE'S SPARROW	G4?	S1S2B,SZN	P		
AMMODRAMUS NELSONI NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW	G5	S1B,SZN	P		
Mammals					
SOREX PREBLEI PREBLE'S SHREW	G4	S3	NG		
SOREX NANUS DWARF SHREW	G4	S3	NG		
SOREX MERRIAMI MERRIAM'S SHREW	G5	S3	NG		
MYOTIS THYSANODES FRINGED MYOTIS	G5	S3	NG		
MYOTIS SEPTENTRIONALIS NORTHERN MYOTIS	G4	S2	NG		
EUDERMA MACULATUM SPOTTED BAT	G4	S1	NG		SENSITIVE
CORYNORHINUS TOWNSENDII TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT	G4	S2S3	NG		SENSITIVE

June, 1996

**Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern**

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
ANTROZOUS PALLIDUS PALLID BAT	G5	S1	NG		SENSITIVE
LEPUS CALIFORNICUS BLACK-TAILED JACK RABBIT	G5	S2S3	NG		
BRACHYLAGUS IDAHOENSIS PYGMY RABBIT	G5	S3	NG		
TAMIAS UMBRINUS UINTA CHIPMUNK	G5	S3?	NG		
CYNOMYS LEUCURUS WHITE-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG	G4	S2	NG		SENSITIVE
CYNOMYS LUDOVICIANUS BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG	G4	S3S4	NG		
PEROGNATHUS PARVUS GREAT BASIN POCKET MOUSE	G5	S2S4	NG		
CHAETODIPUS HISPIDUS HISPID POCKET MOUSE	G5	S1	NG		
SYNAPTOMYS BOREALIS NORTHERN BOG LEMMING	G4	S2	NG		SENSITIVE
ZAPUS HUDSONIUS MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE	G5	S2S3	NG		
CANIS LUPUS GRAY WOLF	G4	S1	E	LEXN	ENDANGERED
VULPES VELOX SWIFT FOX	G3	S1	FBCS	C	
URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS GRIZZLY BEAR	G4T3	S1S2	GARH	LTNL	THREATENED
MARTES PENNANTI FISHER	G5	S2	FBRH		SENSITIVE
MUSTELA NIGRIPES BLACK-FOOTED FERRET	G1	SH#	E	XNLE	ENDANGERED

June, 1996

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
GULO GULO LUSCUS NORTH AMERICAN WOLVERINE	G4T4	S2	FBRH		
FELIS LYNX LYNX	G5	S3	FBRH		SENSITIVE
RANGIFER TARANDUS CARIBOU WOODLAND CARIBOU	G5T3	SX	GACS		ENDANGERED

June, 1996

**Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern**

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
Invertebrates					
ZAITZEVIA THERMAE WARM SPRING ZAITZEVIAN RIFFLE BEETLE	G1	S1	NONE	C	
MICROCYLLOEPUS BROWNI BROWN'S MICROCYLLOEPUS RIFFLE BEETLE	G1	S1	NONE		
CAENIS YOUNGI A MAYFLY	G3	S2	NONE		
PHYCIODES BATESII TAWNY CRESCENT	G3G4	S2S3	NONE		
ISOCAPNIA CRINITA A STONEFLY	GU	S2	NONE		
ISOCAPNIA INTEGRAL A STONEFLY	G2	S2	NONE		
UTACAPNIA COLUMBIANA A STONEFLY	GU	S2	NONE		
LEDNIA TUMANA MELTWATER LEDNIAN STONEFLY	G1	S1	NONE		
ZAPADA CORDILLERA A STONEFLY	GU	S2	NONE		
ZAPADA GLACIER WESTERN GLACIER STONEFLY	G1	S1	NONE		
ISOPERLA PETERSONI A STONEFLY	GU	S2?	NONE		
RHYACOPHILA ALEXANDERI ALEXANDER'S RHYACOPHILAN CADDISFLY	G2	S2	NONE		
RHYACOPHILA EBRIA A CADDISFLY	G1?	S1?	NONE		
RHYACOPHILA NEWELLI A RHYACOPHILAN CADDISFLY	G2?	S2?	NONE		
RHYACOPHILA GLACIERI A RHYACOPHILAN CADDISFLY	G1	S1	NONE		

June, 1996

**Montana Natural Heritage Program
Animal Species of Special Concern**

Name Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Status	USFWS Status	USFS Status
AGAPETUS MONTANUS AN AGAPETUS CADDISFLY	G2?	S2?	NONE		
DISCUS SHIMEKI STRIATE DISC	G4	S1	NONE		
HEMPHILLIA DANIELSI MARBLED JUMPING-SLUG	G1G3	S1S3	NONE		
MAGNIPELTA MYCOPHAGA SPOTTED SLUG	G2G3	S1S3	NONE		
OREOHELIX ALPINA ALPINE MOUNTAINSNAIL	G1	S1	NONE		
OREOHELIX AMARIRADIX BITTERROOT MOUNTAINSNAIL	G1G2	S1S2	NONE		
OREOHELIX CARINIFERA KEELED MOUNTAINSNAIL	G1	S1	NONE		
OREOHELIX ELRODI CARINATE MOUNTAINSNAIL	G1	S1	NONE		
OREOHELIX STRIGOSA BERRYI BERRY'S MOUNTAINSNAIL	G4T2	S1S2	NONE		
FLUMINICOLA FUSCUS COLUMBIA PEBBLESNAIL	G2G3	SX	NONE		
ACROLOXUS COLORADENSIS ROCKY MOUNTAIN CAPSHELL	G?	S1	NONE		